

[The bill in this case was filed by the complainants, John T. Stoddert and Robert Bowie, Jr., and Elizabeth, his wife, against the personal representatives, widow and devisees of Robert Bowie, deceased, for the specific performance of an alleged agreement made between the said Robert Bowie, deceased, and the complainant, John T. Stoddert, in contemplation of the marriage of their children, the other complainants. The allegations of the bill and answer, and the proof in the case are sufficiently stated in the following opinion of the *Hon. Nicholas Brewer*, Associate Judge of the third Judicial District, to whom the cause was certified by the Chancellor, who was interested in the result of the suit.]

---

This case has been submitted to me by certificate of his honor, the Chancellor, and has been fully argued on both sides.

The bill in substance alleges, that the complainant, Robert W. Bowie, Jr., and Elizabeth Bowie, then Elizabeth Stoddert, being engaged to be married, with consent of their parents, John T. Stoddert and Robert W. Bowie, and having no means for their support and maintenance when married, in contemplation of the said marriage, it was thereupon mutually agreed by and between their parents, and also by and between their said parents and themselves, and as a provision therefor, that the said John T. Stoddert should give to his said daughter a farm, not to exceed the value of \$12,000, and that the said Robert W. Bowie should give to his said son, as soon as he was married, \$8000 or \$10,000, in personal property, suitable for the occupation and cultivation of a farm, and in addition thereto, if the married couple should be settled near him, should furnish them with groceries and other necessary supplies for a year or more, until a crop was made to obviate the necessity of their going in debt. That on the 28th day of May, 1846, upon the faith of said agreement, and relying thereon, the said parties were married.

The bill further states, that the said John T. Stoddert, in fulfilment of *his part* of the said agreement, purchased the Nottingham farm, in Prince Georges county, at the cost (including